

# Audition Side B

Act I

Miracle on 34th Street, the Play

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**FRED.** Hello, Doris.

**DORIS.** Oh, hi, Fred. Susan's over talking to the elves. Could you get her and take her somewhere? There's so much going on right now that I don't have time to deal with the crazy ideas they'll put in her head.

**FRED.** Don't worry. I overheard the conversation. It was just about the North Pole.

**DORIS.** That's just what I mean! North Pole! North Pole! I appreciate your taking care of Susan, Mr. Gayley, and I'm very glad that you two get along so well. But we've been neighbors long enough for you to know that I have definite ideas about keeping her mind free of illusions. I've told you before that I *will not* have her believing in fairy tales, Mr. Gayley.

**FRED** (*teasing*). Why not, Mrs. Walker?

**DORIS** (*relaxing*). All right, Fred. Sorry to be so irritable. But I feel it's more important for her to understand reality. As a lawyer, I should think you would support that.

**FRED.** I didn't know you were raising a seven-year-old lawyer.

**DORIS.** It isn't a fairy-tale world we live in, Fred. She'll end up expecting that Prince Charming will come along, and he'll...and he'll... Well, Fred, you know that "happily ever after" just doesn't exist.

**FRED.** Are we talking about Susan, or about you? (*Pause.*) Look, I'm sorry, Doris. I'm sure your divorce was painful, but you can't stay bitter about it forever. Not all men will let a woman down and I don't think Susan's going to be any happier growing up to think so.

**DORIS.** I was devastated, Fred... Thank you for all your help, but please let me be Susan's parent.

**SUSAN** (*running to join DORIS and FRED*). Hey, Mom, the elves are better this year. Their costumes actually fit.